

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0099] An airbag module may have an inflator, a cushion, and a housing that contains the inflator and the cushion. The cushion is folded flat over a large area of an instrument panel so that the cushion inflates rapidly to protect out-of-position occupants. The housing retains the cushion and the inflator such that the inflator is positioned forward of the cushion. The housing may be deformable in response to impact to provide cushioning and/or provide a softer impact against the inflated cushion. A flat diffuser may be used to help convey inflation gas from the inflator to the cushion. The airbag module may have a thin membrane that hides the cushion from vehicle occupants. The cushion may tear through the membrane. A rigid tear initiation member may be positioned between the cushion and membrane to help the cushion break through the membrane.